- The recently conducted District Level Household Survey (DLHS-III) has shown increase in institutional deliveries in most States. Kerala has shown 99.4% institutional delivery, Puducherry has shown 99.1% institutional delivery and Chandigarh has shown an increase of 28.7% points in institutional deliveries over the previous DLHS-II survey. Even States with low institutional delivery rates have shown increase in institutional deliveries. For example, in Madhya Pradesh, institutional deliveries have increased by 18.85% points and in Rajasthan this increase is 15.2% points.
- Operationalizing Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRUs) and Primary Health Centers for 24X7 services;
- Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill- based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance;
- Training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section;
- Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services; prevention and treatment of Anemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation;
- Organizing Village Health & Nutrition Day at Anganwadi Centers;
- Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women;
- Strengthening of Health Facilities, *i.e.*, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Centres (SCs), by providing them with funds including untied grants, Annual Maintenance Grants (AMG) and Corpus Funds to improve service delivery.

Supply of foodgrains to ration card holders

*267.SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria set for determining Below Poverty Line (BPL);

(b) the steps taken by Government so that the ration cards are only issued to genuine house-holds; and

(c) the steps taken for the storage of foodgrains to ensure regular and adequate supply to ration card holders?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) For identification of persons living below poverty line, Planning Commission uses a poverty line index based on per capita consumption expenditure. Poverty line is expressed in terms of per capita consumption expenditure needed to attain the minimum amount of calorie intake out of food consumed alongwith a minimum amount of non-food expenditure. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs.356.30 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs.538.60 per capita per month in urban areas. State specific poverty lines are derived from National Poverty Line using State specific price indices and inter State price differentials.

Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under implementation since June 1997 is focused on below poverty line families and is operated under joint responsibility of the Government of India and State Governments & UT Administrations. Responsibility for identification of eligible BPL families as per the estimates released by the Planning Commission and issuance of ration cards to them rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations.

To enable State Governments and UT Administrations to issue ration cards to genuine households, PDS (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Provisions under this Order mandate State Governments and UT Administrations to issue ration cards to eligible applicants and to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards as well as bogus units in ration cards.

Central Pool stocks of foodgrains meant for TPDS are stored in godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI), Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State agencies by adopting scientific storage practices. As per allocations to States and UTs, these agencies provide foodgrains to fair price shops for their timely and regular distribution to ration card holders.

Price of food items

†*268. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a growth rate of 9.3 per cent was registered in the prices of food items in the week ending November 8, 2008, while the Common Wholesale Price Index rate was estimated to be less than the above rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the increase in prices of food items in the country creates formidable financial crisis for the common man of the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The WPI-based inflation rate as on 8.11.2008 was 8.90% (provisional). The inflation rate of Food Articles was 9.31%.

(b) Commodity wise table giving data of annual inflation as on 08.11.2008 is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Government is aware of increase in prices of food items and has taken a number of steps to control the price rise and to soften the impact of price rise on consumers. The important steps taken are given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below). Apart from these general steps, government has taken the following specific measures to protect the vulnerable sections of society.

(i) Government has protected poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.